**Law and Technology Timeline**

**1439** Gutenberg’s movable type printing press invented

**1557** England’s Queen Mary grants the Stationer’s Company a monopoly on printing.

**1710** England’s Statute of Anne, considered the origin of modern copyright, ended the private publishing monopoly of the Stationers’ Company and gave authors/creators the exclusive right to publish their works and profit for 14 years, with a renewal option of another 14 years.

**1787** Copyright written into the United States Constitution in Article 1, Section 8, “Congress shall have power…to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.”

**1790** Congress passes Copyright Act of 1790 under the new U.S. Constitution. Authors of books, maps and charts were granted exclusive rights for 14 years with an optional renewal term of 14 years.

**1802** Prints added to protected works.

**1831** Copyright terms extended to 28 years with optional renewal of 14 years. Music added to works protected against unauthorized printing and vending.

**1856** Dramatic compositions added to protected works.

**1865** Photographs added to protected works.

**1870** Works of art added to protected works.

**1876** Telephone patented

**1877** Phonograph player patented

**1887** Gramophone record (early LP) invented

**1888** “Cinematograph” (first portable motion picture camera) invented

**1888** Kodak hand camera invented

**1899** Magnetic tape recorder invented

**1909** The U.S. Copyright Act revised. Copyright terms extended to 28 years with optional renewal of 28 years. Registration required.

**1912** Motion pictures, previously registered as photographs, added to classes of protected works.

**1923** Television invented by Philo Farnsworth

**1941** Television first commercially broadcast in the United States

**1945** Electronic Numerator Integrator and Computer (ENIAC) patented

**1951** Video tape recorder invented

**1953** Recording and performing rights extended to non-dramatic literary works.

**1962** Recordable audio-cassette tape invented

**1967** Computer floppy disk invented

**1969** “ARPANET” network architecture, the precursor to today’s Internet, created

**1972** Magnavox Odyssey, first home video game system, launched

**1972** VCR home videocassette format developed

**1973** Portable hand-held cellular phone invented

**1976** The Copyright Revision Act extended copyright terms for works created on or after this date to life of the author and 50 years after the author’s death. Fair use and other exceptions to exclusive copyrights are formalized. Registration no longer required

**1979** Sony Walkman (portable audio cassette tape player) introduced

**1981** IBM introduces personal computer (PC)

**1982** Compact Optical Disc (CD) in commercial production

**1983** Internet (first TCP/IP network) developed

**1984** Macintosh personal computer released

**1984** “Discman” (portable CD audio player) developed

**1990** First web server and web browser developed

**1992** Digital Audio Home Recording Act required

copy management systems in digital audio recorders and collection of royalties on sale of digital audio recording devices and media (CD-Rs). Royalties to be distributed among music copyright owners. Clarifies that it is legal to make tapes for private noncommercial use.

**1995** DVD (Digital Versatile Disc or Digital Video Disc) developed

**1998** The Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act extended the term of copyright protection for most works to the life of the author plus 70 years. The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) established “safe harbors” — liability exemptions for Internet service providers in cases of user infringement. “Anti-circumvention” provisions restrict

users’ ability to bypass or impair technological protections (e.g., encryption, DRM) or to distribute tools with which to do so, subject to some limitations.

**2001** Apple “iPod” launched

**2002** The Technology, Education, and Copyright Harmonization (TEACH) Act of 2002 provided for the use of copyrighted works by accredited nonprofit educational institutions in distance education.

**2005** Family Entertainment and Copyright Act imposed criminal penalties for distributing “pre-release” works

**2007** “Kindle,” Amazon’s e-Book reader, launched Apple “iPhone” (portable multimedia and Internet-connected phone)

Launched

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